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NDA HOSTS UGANDAN VISITORS WITH FOCUS ON GRAINS

LINCOLN - The Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) hosted representatives this week from the Uganda Ministry of Agriculture. NDA Director Greg Ibach said the visit focused on potential opportunities between Nebraska and Uganda in the areas of crop preservation techniques and food processing and grain storage equipment.

Okaasai Opolot, director of Crop Resources for the Uganda Ministry of Agriculture, and Patience Rwamigisa, personal aide to the Uganda Minister of Agriculture, met with Director Ibach and State Senator Jerry Johnson, the chair of the Nebraska Legislature's Agriculture Committee. The Ugandan delegation also toured and met with key staff at the University of Nebraska Food Processing Center and Behlen Manufacturing in Columbus. They also visited a large grain storage facility in Oakland.

"This visit is about building relationships and sharing knowledge in a way that has the potential to lead to agricultural sales," said Ibach. "The Uganda Ministry of Agriculture wants to tap into Nebraska's expertise in grain storage and grain processing for food products. These types of partnerships continue to be crucial in our efforts to create and build foreign markets. Being able to have face to face meetings goes a long way toward achieving our goals of growing Nebraska's agriculture industry."

The visit lays the foundation for a Memorandum of Understanding between the developing East African country and Nebraska, Ibach said.

"With a population of over 40 million people, it is an important market opportunity," he said.

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